Increasing the speed of the Darjeeling Mail and Kanchanjunga Express

373. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the speed of the Darjeeling Mail and kanchanjunga Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operationally not feasible.

Railway connection to Burnihat in Meghalaya

374. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the proposed Railway link to Burnihat in Meghalaya;

(b) whether the alignment for the Railway line within Assam has been completed so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The proposed line from Guwahati to Burnihat has not been taken up since Government of Meghalaya did not agree for the same.

Metre-gauge railway line

375. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Amguri-Tuli new metre-gauge Railway line is likely to be opened; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend the line beyond Tuli (Nagaland)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) January, 1993.

(b) No, Sir.

रोटेगांव रेलवे स्टेशन और कोपरगांव रेलवे स्टेशन के बीच रेलवे लाइन

376. **डा० बापू कालदाते:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को दक्षिण मध्य रेलवे के मनमाड-औरंगाबाद रेलमार्ग पर स्थित रोटेगांव रेलवे स्टेशन से मध्य रेलवे में मनमाड-धोंड रेलमार्ग पर स्थित कोपरगांव रेलवे स्टेशन के बीच सीधी रेलवे लाइन बिछाए जाने के लिए विभिन्न संगठनों से अनुरोध प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उन पर क्या निर्णय लिया गया है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) जी हां।

(ख) इस संबंध में संसद सदस्य प्रो० राय कापसे और प्रमोद महाजन, के सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं।

(ग) संसाधनों की तंगी के कारण फिलहाल इस प्रस्ताव पर विचार नहीं किया जा सकता।

मीटर गेज को बदलने की योजना

377. **डा० बापू कालदाते:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मीटर गेज को बदलने के लिए बनाई गयी क्रांतिकारी योजना की गति धीमी हो गयी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) इस योजना को शीघ्र कार्यान्वित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन):

(क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) कार्यान्वयन योजना के अनुसार निर्माण कार्य शीघ्र पूरा किया जा रहा है। 1992-93 में 1200 कि०मी० को यातायात के लिए खोलने का लक्ष्य है।

Privatisation of the railway manufacturing units

378. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the World Bank to privatise the five Railway manufacturing units linking availability of a loan of $ 300 million to the Indian Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the reaction of the Finance Ministry and the Railways thereto;

(d) what is the status of the proposal and performance of Five PSU in question in terms of broad economic indicators by each undertaking;

(e) whether these undertakings are starved of orders and financial support and hence their capacity remains under-utilised; and

(f) if so, the details of measures taken to revitalise, restructure and modernise them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Hike in rail fare and freight

379. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government propose to raise Rail fare and freight in the wake of steep hike in the prices of petrol and petroleum products;

(b) if so, the justification therefor; and

(c) what has been the effect of recent hike in prices of petrol and petroleum products on railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Railway's fuel bill is estimated to go up by about Rs. 100 crores from 16.9.92, the date of hike of prices, to 31.3.93.

New railway lines in the area of northern railways region

380. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to lay new railway lines in the Northern Railway region during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey between Rohtak-Hissar and Fatehabad has also been conducted;

(d) if not, whether Government propose to link the cotton city and the biggest foodgrain market of Haryana-Fatehabad with any railway line during the year 1992-93 or during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along-with the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following surveys for construction